People below the poverty line

1383. SHRI M. M. JACOB: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) in what manner the level of poverty of an individual or family is defined or measured;

(b) what are the estimates of the number of people living below the poverty line at present;

(c) what is the number of people expected to cross the poverty line during the next Five Year Plan period; and

(d) what steps are proposed to be taken by Government to achieve this end?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN): (a) An individual or family is defined as poor if the level of expenditure of that individual or family is below the poverty line. The "Poverty Line" was defined by the Task Force on Minimum Needs and Effective Consumption Demand (in 1979) as the per capita monthly expenditure of Rs. 49.09 in rural areas and Rs. 56.64 in urban areas at 1973-74 prices corresponding to the per capita daily calorie requirement of 2400 in rural areas and 2100 in urban areas. The corresponding expenditure levels at 1987-88 price levels are Rs. 131.80 in rural areas and Rs. 152.13 in urban areas.

(b) The number of people in the country living below poverty line in 1987-88 was estimated provisionally as 2324 lakhs.

(c) The number of people expected to cross poverty line in the next Five Year Plan period will be finalised and incorporated in the Eighth Five Year Plan document.

(d) A number of poverty alleviation programmes with emphasis on generation of employment and incomes in rural and urban areas are being implemented for alleviation of poverty. Apart from these programmes, Government propose to introduce, as an interim step, an employment Guarantee Scheme for the drought prone areas and areas with acute problem of rural unemployment in the current year as announced in the Budget.

Returning of the Commission paid by M/S AB BOFORS in the 155MM Howitzer Gun Deal

1384. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answers to Unstarred Questions 1728 and 392 given in the Rajya Sabha on 27th March and the 8th May, 1990 respectively and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that M/s. A. B. Bofors has sent a communication to Government offering to return the entire amount it supposed to had paid as commission in the 155 mm Howitzer gun deal: if so, what is the date of its receipt; and

(b) what was the reply of Goverment thereto and the date of the said reply?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Adarsh Pathsalas in the Country

1385. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of Adarsh Pathshalas in the country;

(b) whether Government have any proposal to set up new Adarsh Pathshalas during the current financial year;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof;

(d) what are the Rules/Regulations for recruitment of staff in the Adarsh Pathsalas; and